

of 1964, finally codifying his famous "Powell Amendment"; a rider that would deny federal dollars to institutions who practice racial discrimination, which he had introduced repeatedly for years.

Congressman Powell was a pioneer among lawmakers whose legacy continues to inspire countless generations of Americans of all backgrounds, colors, creeds and religions to take part in this grand experiment we call "representative government".

I respectfully urge my colleagues to join me and cosponsor H. Con. Res. 182 to celebrate a lawmaker whose accomplishments are among the greatest examples of perseverance and triumph in our democratic system.

IN RECOGNITION OF EDUCATOR
LARRY RATTO

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2001

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to a legendary educator in my congressional district who retired on June 30, 2001 after an illustrious thirty-six year career filled with memorable contributions to the Hayward, California school district.

A native of Alameda, California, Larry began his career in 1965, when he worked as a history/government teacher and counselor at Mt. Eden High School. Four years later, he became an administrator at Tennyson High School where he took the reins and lead with vigor and creativity.

He stood on hot coals more than once for a good five to ten minutes during pep talks to student leaders at their annual weekend retreat.

Many recall the time in 1970 when Larry rode a galloping horse between the Tennyson High School buildings to chase down a truant student—a legendary story that people still talk about three decades later.

In 1971, Larry became vice principal at Hayward High School and five years later he led as principal of Sunset High School until it closed in 1990. He returned to the 1,900-student Hayward High School as principal, the last position he held before his retirement.

"You got to have some pizzazz," Larry said, while wrapping up his final days as a public school administrator. "You are competing with the MTV culture." Larry describes his career as "fun." He said, "There were days when it was not fun and hours that I thought, 'Why am I doing this?'"

Having once considered being a lawyer, Larry enjoyed the excitement of a high school principal's life, that every day was different. He is proud of Hayward High School and its wide class offerings and plethora of extracurricular student activities.

Parents, teachers, students, administrators and community leaders express great admiration for Larry Ratto's three decades of outstanding leadership in education as well as his exemplary involvement in community activities. I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to this colorful, legendary educator, and community leader.

IN HONOR OF THE REOPENING OF
THE LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL &
TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY CENTER

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2001

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the reopening of the newly renovated and recently renamed Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center located in New York City. The stated mission of the Center is to provide a home for the birth, nurture and celebration of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender organizations, institutions and culture. For nearly two decades the Center has successfully fulfilled that mission by providing groups and individuals a safe space in which to achieve their fullest potential. The newly renovated space at 208 West 13th Street in Manhattan, will be a permanent home for the local LGBT community, fostering creativity, compassion, and activism.

The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center has long been a beacon of hope for many in the community, serving thousands upon thousands of residents from all walks of life and from every corner of the world. The Center is not only a host to a wide variety of civic, athletic, health, and cultural groups, but it also provides an array of its own programming. Programs such as Project Connect, CenterBridge, Center Kids, the Pat Parker/Vito Russo Center Library, and the National Museum and Archive of Lesbian and Gay History add to the expansive fabric that binds New York's LGBT Community.

Mr. Speaker, I salute The Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgender Community Center in its ongoing effort to better enrich the LGBT Community and society as a whole. I am eminently proud to represent such a living landmark. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing them well and all the hope for the future in their new spectacular facility.

HONORING SUPERINTENDENT
GEORGE KELEDJIAN

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2001

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Central Unified School District Superintendent George Keledjian. After many years of dedicated service to the district and the community, Mr. Keledjian has announced his plans to retire.

George Keledjian has an extensive educational background and a remarkable life story. After completing high school in Cyprus, Keledjian attended the Teacher's Training Institute where he decided education would be his focal point. While teaching high school in Lebanon, he earned the equivalent of three dollars a month. After five years of teaching in Lebanon, he boarded a ship for Pasadena, CA. Keledjian then attended Point Loma Nazarene College. After four years of schooling he received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees, both in Education. He began working towards his Ph.D., but due to a serious car accident he

was unable to obtain his degree. After many years teaching at a junior high school in Southern California, George Keledjian came to Fresno, CA in 1966. He became Principal at Madison Elementary School in 1971. In 1984, he accepted the position of Superintendent of Central Unified School District.

In his 35 years with the district, Keledjian has overseen the building of five new schools and the renovation of many others. Performance on standardized test scores has increased to above state and county averages. Under George Keledjian's management, the district's General Fund remains financially solvent. He has also led many Central Unified schools to recognition for various awards. Two schools were recognized as California State Distinguished Schools; one school was recognized as a Bonner Foundation Virtues and Character School; two schools were recognized as 2000 Governor's Reading Award Recipients; and Central Unified's Future Farmers of America program is recognized nationally.

Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute to George Keledjian for his accomplishments and his years of service to Central Unified School District. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing George Keledjian a happy retirement.

ADAK ISLAND TRANSFER
LEGISLATION

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 11, 2001

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation which will facilitate and promote the successful commercial reuse of the former Naval Air Facility on Adak Island, Alaska. At the same time, this legislation will allow the Aleut people of Alaska to reclaim the island and to make use of its modern developments and important location.

The legislation I introduce today ratifies an agreement between The Aleut Corporation, an Alaska Native Regional Corporation, the Department of the Interior, and the Department of the Navy. "The Agreement Concerning the Conveyance of Property at the Adak Naval Complex, Adak," Alaska was signed last September and is the result of more than four years of discussions and negotiations among the three parties.

The bill and the Agreement also further the conservation of important wildlife habitat. A portion of Adak is within the Aleutian Islands subunit of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge. The Agreement facilitates the Department of the Interior's continued management and protection of the Refuge lands on Adak and even adds some of the Navy lands to the Refuge. Moreover, in exchange for the developed Navy lands, which are not suitable for the Refuge, but are commercially useful, The Aleut Corporation will convey environmentally sensitive lands it holds elsewhere in the Refuge to the Department of the Interior.

For many years the Navy was an important constituent in Alaska's Aleutian Chain. Its presence was first established during World War II with the selection and development of the island because of its combination of ability to support a major airfield and its natural and protected deep water port. The Navy's presence there contributed greatly to the defense